a new subject for representation and that the inconvenience felt had been explained at more than one session of the Assembly. In view of the fact that some of the vacant Government buildings could be easily converted into a satrom, the Member prayed that his proposal might be brought into effect as early as practicable.

The Member next pleaded for a separate English school for girls. He said that it was a long-felt want represented in previous sessions of the Assembly also. On account of there being no separate school for girls, grown-up girls were now being sent to the local boys' school which for several reasons was not desirable. The necessity was so keenly felt that the Municipal Council was prepared to conduct a school, if a building was made available.

Finally, the Member put in an earnest plea for introducing the principle of local option within the municipal limits of Attingal.

President's reply.—As regards local option, the matter is under the consideration of the Excise Committee. Fixing the number of shops and their location is one of the subjects engaging the attention of that Committee. Your remarks will be borne in mind when Government pass orders on the report of the Committee.

In regrad to the establishment of a school for girls at Attingal, your suggestion is that, if a building is handed over to the Municipal Council, the Council will be prepared to maintain and run the school. When a regular resolution of the Council on that subject comes up before the Government, the matter will be considered.

As regards the provision of a satrom at Attingal, the matter will be further examined in the light of your present representation.

VII. EDUCATION.—(*Continued.*)

126. Need for a federal type of University for Travancore.

Mr. M. V. Mathew B. A. (Member, Nominated) said at the outset that he had already expressed his view on the subject in response to the invitation of the University Committee. No scheme had perhaps roused such keen interest and attention in the West Coast as the proposed University, and the most ardent prayer and sincerest wish of all Travancoreans was that the scheme might soon become a *fait accompli*. A University was an immediate need in this country. In 1910 India had only 5 Universities, while there were so many as 15 now and many more were in sight. Dr. Miller considered Trivandrum as a fit centre for a University as early as 1885. Dr. Mitchell practically started the idea of a Travancore University in 1910. In view of those facts the resolution in the Legislative Council on that subject was a move in the right direction.

In regard to the ambit of the institution, the Member considered that, though the Government should certainly welcome all eligible areas for linguistic, ethnical and other reasons, they could not wait for them ; much less could they subordinate the interests of Travancore to those of Cochin and British Malabar. His Highness the Maha Raja should be the Chancellor, irrespective of any outside areas that might be tacked on to the Travancore University. The high level of literacy of the people and the variety, number and grade of educational institutions in Travancore would justify a separate University for the State. A University had been started in Burma with a poor First Grade College, a poorer Second Grade College and a Law College much inferior to the one in Trivandrum. The prestige of a University depended on its standard of teaching and not upon its geographical extent. The degrees of German Universities of extremely microscopic areas were welcomed everywhere, while those of the immensely extensive Chinese and Japanese Universities carried no weight. In regard to faculties, the Travancore University should not now think of the Medical and Engineering courses which might cost over Rs. 50 lakhs by way of non-recurring expenditure. A beginning should be made with an attempt at co-ordinating the existing institutions in Trivandrum.

The Member then observed that a kind of federation might be effected by the central with the mofussil colleges for the pursuit of extensive culture. The bachelors'

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course should become the common property of all His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects, rich and poor, sharp and dull. The mofussil colleges should be allowed to train students for the pass course, for the purpose of relieving the congestion in Trivandrum. Mofussil areas should institute scholarships to be subsidised by the Government, so that intelligent and poor students might be enabled to prosecute their studies in the University centre. According to the scheme the Member had in view, no student in the State, wherever he might have been born and whatever his circumstances might be, should suffer from the prohibitive cost of University life, nor should mediocres be compelled to live in Trivandrum at prohibitive cost and cause congestion without proportionate profit. The above was a rough idea of the practical type of University he would propose for the consideration of Government, which in his opinion would also relieve the Government of a good deal of its financial burden, and while giving more scope for private enterprise, would also be denominational in its nature.

The Member finally spoke about the bifurcation of the arts and science courses in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum, and suggested three ways of relieving the tension in the College. One was to divide the institution into two—College of Science and College of Arts—the latter being located in the new building in the Training College. The second was to send the Intermediate students in both arts and sciences to the new buildings at Taikad, the B. A. classes alone being held in the present Arts College buildings. The third suggestion was to open a fresh Intermediate College at Trivandrum or Mavelikara or any other equally important centre. Of those three suggestions the Member recommended the first one as the most feasible and dismissed the other two as being unnecessarily costly and also impracticable on other grounds.

President's reply.—You have yourself said that you have sent up your view regarding the type of University to be established in Travancore to the University Committee in answer to their *questionnaire*. Your suggestions appear to be valuable, and I daresay they will be considered by the University Committee before they send up their report. They will also be considered by the Government when the report reaches them.

127. Technical and religious education.

Mr. A. S. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara) first spoke on the need for religious instruction in schools. He explained what was meant by religion and observed that the system of education obtaining at present, being a Godless system, the children brought in schools were not having that all-round development of the intellect which they would have had, if some arrangements had been made to teach the young something about morality and God. The Member then spoke in detail about the evils which flowed from the present secular system of education. The two-fold difficulty in carrying out the idea of religious instruction was the absence of text books and finance. The first difficulty could be removed by the appointment of a committee of members representing the chief religions and the preparation, by that committee, of a text-book common to the followers of all religions. The Member represented that the general complaint was that the pupils brought up under the present system of education were growing more and more insubordinate, defiant and self-willed, and, as a consequence, it was becoming difficult to maintain discipline in schools. He, therefore, requested that the proposal might be given effect to as early as practicable.

In dealing with the urgent need for technical education the Member considered Form III or Form IV a sufficient standard for general education, and that in the higher forms some form of manual training or industry should be prescribed as a compulsory subject of study. The industries recommended for introduction in schools included weaving, manufacture of matches, soap, candles, etc. The teaching of those industries should be made compulsory in both Vernacular and English schools. Alluding to the Dewan's reference to the waning condition of the Alleppey Commercial School due to a decline in strength, the Member said that, if type-writing and short-hand were introduced in schools, a larger number of young men would find employment and the drain towards Madras in the shape of application fees could be

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